

## FARM LABOR NOW SERIOUS PROBLEM

Many Acres of Land will be Idle On Account of Scarcity of Labor

(From the Galveston News) . . . That the agricultural situation of the country is more acute than is realized by the majority of the people is the belief of Colonel Frank P. Holland, prominent farmer and publisher of Holland's Magazine and Farm and Ranch at Dallas. "Some may call me a pessimist," he added, "but I predict that we are going to get hungry this year. We have a large demand right here at home for our farm products, and our export demand is going to drain our resources."

"Farm labor is scarcer now than ever before and laborers are demanding from \$3 to \$5 a day, and an eight-hour day at that," said Colonel Holland. "This is beyond the price that farmers are in position to pay. To meet this demand would take all the revenue the farmers derive from their crops, leaving not the wherewithal to support themselves and families. Farmers are the only class of working men who haven't received an increase in prices for the products of the labor commensurate with the increased price of production."

Prices of farm products in many instances are lower now than they were a year ago, he pointed out. For instance, last summer hogs rose as high as 23 cents per pound on foot, while now they are bringing less than 15 cents a pound on foot. As a result, he said, many hog raisers will not produce meat for the market this year.

**Discussed Acreage**  
Likewise the acreage of land tilled this year will be below the acreage placed in production last year. Farmers, handicapped by the labor situation, are reducing their acreage, and consequently production, stated Col. Holland.

Taking his own experience as an instance, Colonel Holland said that on his own farm, near Dallas, he has been producing from 300 to 400 meat animals, cattle, hogs, sheep and goats, for the market annually. This year he will not produce more than fifty meat animals for the market. His farm is composed of 450 acres, 250 acres of which have been in cultivation in the past. He added that this year the acreage tilled will be cut to 50 acres, and this is only typical of what is being done throughout the state, he said.

He stated that there will be less than half the small grain raised in Texas this year than there was last year. The acreage in corn and cotton has slightly increased, but not enough to become a potent factor in offsetting the decrease in the production of other foodstuffs and feedstuffs.

The situation is due to the large amount of public works under construction and the high wages paid, which are luring the people, especially young men, from the farms to the city, he said. The conditions are unfortunate, he added, but no one can blame any man for taking \$5 and working only eight hours a day when he would get a much lower figure and work from ten to twelve hours a day on the farm. He stated, however, that in the long run the men gained nothing financially by this. Regardless of the high wages and the high salaries paid in the cities, it will make everything that the man makes to keep himself and family in food, unless a farm life be-

comes more attractive and production is greatly increased.

**Not a Square Deal**  
But the producers of food and foodstuffs are awakened to the fact that they have not had a square deal and an increase commensurate with other occupations, he stated. In the future, he added, the producers are going to demand compensation based on labor hour for labor hour or in other words are going to swap hours instead of dollars. The new secretary of agriculture, E. T. Meredith, has already called attention to this matter, Colonel Holland said. He predicts that in less than two years there will be an exodus from the city to the country and farm life, made more attractive, will come into its own. Farming will yet become the most profitable business in the country, he predicted. He added that it takes more brains to farm right than it does to conduct a commercial business. Unless these conditions prevail, he stated, it won't be long before one will have to go to the country to hear the sound of the dinner bell.

## OIL FOUND NEAR SIERRA BLANCA

L. P. Jones, splendid fellow citizen of Merkel, returned last week from a trip to Sierra Blanca, where he had been to look after his large ranch holdings. He also reports considerable interest there over the recent discovery of considerable oil in an old abandoned well in that section. The result of which there is much speculation in leases and royalties. Mr. Jones states that he leased 300 acres of land and was receiving numerous inquiries for more.

And according to the newspaper published there a number of locations had been made and the rigs for some were going up. In fact it seems that there are those who have great faith in the future of that section becoming an oil center.

## DIED IN DALLAS AND BURIED IN MERKEL

The hearts of many of our citizens were made sad Tuesday evening when it was learned that J. A. Milliken, of Dallas had died at his home in that city on Monday before, and would be laid to rest in the Rose Hill Cemetery Wednesday about noon, after funeral services at the Methodist Church.

Deceased formerly lived in this city, and had many warm friends who regret to learn of his demise. He had been in poor health for some time.

Deceased leaves a wife and 1 child, with whom our entire citizenship extends deepest sympathy in this sad hour of bereavement.

Mrs. Milliken is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Thomas.

## DR. WILLIAMS BUYS BIGHAM RESIDENCE

We are informed that Dr. Chas. F. Williams closed a deal this week for the purchase of the Bigham residence, which is located just south of the Methodist church.

This is one of the nicest and most home like places in the city most ideally located, and no doubt the Doctor has made an excellent and profitable selection.

Our Prescription department is complete. Merkel Drug Co. is

## AIRDOME TO OPEN NEXT SATURDAY

Groene Says the Best Pictures are none too Good for His Patrons

Manager Groene of the Cozy Theatre says the Airdome will open Saturday night with a special seven reel picture program. The Airdome like the Cozy Theatre, has been equipped with modern equipment; Mr. Groene stated that the Airdome would be operated in connection with the Cozy Theatre, except on Saturday nights when the Theatre and Airdome will each have separate programs and operate independent of each other. Few towns, if any, the size of Merkel can boast a like quality of amusement and class of service.

Good Wholesome amusement is essential, and an asset to any community, and our little city is to be congratulated on the very progressive spirited nature of a Theatre manager like Mr. Groene, who is constantly on the lookout for the comfort and pleasure of his patrons and we predict a proper appreciation of his efforts to insure comfort of his patrons in any kind of weather during the coming warm season.

## B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

- Leader, Altha Chamberless.
1. Voluntary prayers.
  2. Scripture Lesson.
  3. Repentance is a change of mind.—Mr. Hancock.
  4. The necessity of Repentance.—Ruth Boden.
  5. The Nature of faith.—Mr. Jackson.
  6. The necessity of faith.—Ora Porter.
  7. Repentance and faith continued.—Ola Sharp.
  8. Piano solo—Lorena Frazier.
  9. Closing remarks, Ira L. Par-rack.

## WILL VISIT IN EUROPEAN COUNTRY

A. F. Juenger, local cotton buyer for Geo. Finberg Cotton Company, left this week for Houston, where he will join other friends on a trip to Europe, where the party will make an extended tour of the battle fields of the late World War.

Mr. Juenger has promised to give the Mail an occasional communication describing the trip over as well as giving us some real facts concerning the conditions as he finds them in the old countries.

## POPULAR YOUNG COUPLE MARRY

Rev. W. M. Murrell, pastor of the Methodist church of this city, in his usual and appropriate manner pronounced the holy wedlock, Mr. Robert Lee Myers, of Abilene, and Miss Veda Amanda McNeese, of this city. The occasion taking place at the home of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McNeese, on Wednesday, April 7, at seven p.m.

The contracting parties are excellent young people and the Mail joins a host of friends in extending congratulations and good wishes.

Booth Warren, Asst., Cashier of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, was among those of our city attending the great automobile show in Fort Worth this week.

## THE MEETING PROGRESSING NICELY

Rev. Doak is Delivering Great Messages—Many Additions to Church

The methodist meeting in this city which is being conducted by pastor Murrell, assisted by Rev. Doak of Abilene, is progressing nicely, with large crowds in attendance upon each service.

Rev. Doak is delivering forceable and eloquent bible sermons, and as the result many have been added to church membership.

On next Sunday there will be all the regular morning and evening services, and to which pastor Murrell extends a hearty welcome to everyone.

On last Sunday morning the high attendance mark was more than reached in the Sunday school, there being even 300 in attendance, fifty more than the goal. But it is urged and hoped that every one will be there next Sunday, in order that the attendance may even be increased.

## PRESBYTERIAN LADIES

The Auxiliary Society of the Presbyterian Church met at the home of Mrs. Buttler's, April 5. Business being disposed of the society spent a short time socially during which delicious refreshments were served.

The Society met with Mrs. Marvin Smith last Monday. Sixteen members were present, one new member and one visitor. Refreshments were served. The Society will meet next Monday afternoon with Mrs. J. L. Tucker.

L. R. Thompson, Cashier of the Farmers & Merchants Nat., Bank, was in Abilene on business first of the week.

## SEARS WELL NOW 3,000 FEET DEEP

We are informed that the Sears well reached a depth of about 3,000 feet last Friday, and which is said to have completed the drilling contract.

There is also a report that salt water was encountered also at this depth, along with the completion of the contract.

As to whether the well is to be drilled deeper at this writing, we cannot say. We understand the company is having a meeting at their offices in Fort Worth today, and a decision will be reached as to whether the test will go deeper or whether the well will be filled up to the oil bearing sand which was found at about 2,500 feet and the well given a shot.

It has been suggested to the Mail by some of our citizens who would like to see the well drilled on deeper in the belief that greater production might be found, that our people get together and by popular subscription offer to assist in the well being drilled deeper.

## BUY COAL NOW

According to information from the mines, coal advances fifty-cents each month until August, and there is no guarantee even then on the price. H. M. Rose & Son.

New Georgette Blouses and Petticoats just received at the Star Store.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harris returned first of the week from an extended visit to their sons and daughters in east Texas and Oklahoma. Mr. Harris stated that while they had a very pleasant and enjoyable trip that they were indeed glad to get back to Merkel and west Texas.

Dr. M. Armstrong will leave next week for Houston, where he will attend a meeting of the state Medical Association, after which he will visit a son who is attending the Medical Branch of the State University at Galveston, thence Dr. Armstrong will go to New Orleans, where he will attend a meeting of the American Medical Association.

J. T. Anderson, a former pioneer citizen of Merkel, father of Messrs. R. O. and Nat Anderson of the Farmers State Bank of this city, but now a citizen of California, is here for a short visit to the latter, as well as a host of friends.

## MR. WEST BUYS THE ROSE HOME

Among the important real estate deals made here the last few days was the purchase of the beautiful and modern home of A. C. Rose, on Oak Street, by Mr. Geo. F. West.

We understand the purchase price for this one of our nicest and best located homes was around \$7,500. And we understand that Mr. Rose's family will likely move to Abilene on account of the school opportunities, while Mr. Rose will be here most of the time to look after his splendid dry goods business.

## B. Y. P. U. VISITED THE NOODLE AND SHILOAH

On last Sunday afternoon the B. Y. P. U. of the Merkel Baptist church, accompanied by a large number of the young married people of the church, also a goodly number of the older members, visited the Noodle and Shiloh Churches and rendered a program consisting of discourses, addresses and talks, also songs, quartets and readings that made the program interesting to both old and young.

The Union was greeted at both places by a packed house, which was very encouraging to the ones rendering the program. The young people received a most hearty invitation from those good people to return at an early date.

B. Y. P. U. Reporter.

## PRESBYTERIAN NOTICE

Rev. C. C. Dooley, pastor of the Presbyterian church who with Mrs. Dooley attended the District Presbytery at Anson, announces that he will hold the regular morning services at his church, and invites all who will to worship with them.

## TAYLOR CO. SINGING CONVENTION HERE

We are requested to announce that on next Sunday afternoon at two o'clock the Taylor county Singing Convention will meet at the Merkel Baptist church and spend the afternoon in song service.

It is expected that classes from all over the county will be present and which assures those in attendance hearing some splendid singing.

Home dried fruit at G. M. It Sharp's.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN WITHOUT TEACHER

It is Estimated that Fifty-Thousand Children have no Teacher this year

Austin, April 11.—At least 50,000 children of Texas have this year had no teachers at all, and the actual shortage of teachers is placed at 2,000 by Miss Annie Webb Blanton, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in a report made late today to the Committee on Education, which held a conference here today.

Miss Blanton is the chairman of the subcommittee on present conditions in public schools.

"Most schools report constant shifting of positions, unrest and dissatisfaction among teachers. Reports from 229 counties show a shortage of 754 teachers in rural districts," said Miss Blanton in the report. "The increase in scholastic enrollment, however, indicates that we have present 1,827 fewer teachers in these country districts than last year's standard would require. Reports from 590 towns show an actual shortage of 225 teachers. But these reports also reveal that nearly all the towns have greatly over crowded grades, with teachers in many places instructing the pupils in two half-day shifts. Some grades report as many as ninety pupils to the teacher."

The report also shows the institution of higher learning are suffering more from lack of sufficient funds because of increased attendance. The increase at the Texas University is 50 per cent at A. & M. College.

In a report submitted by T. H. Shelby, chairman of the committee on the present emergency of the educational system, it is recommended that better salaries be paid teachers as the only means of stemming the tide of "emigration" from the teaching profession. It is also recommended that a "Why not teach?" campaign be conducted in the state.

Dr. R. E. Vinson of the committee on constructive policies recommended that the Governor be requested to appoint an advisory committee on constructive policies, consisting of twenty-one persons, including citizen legislators and educators, this committee to form a definite educational plan and submit it to the Governor for action at the coming special session of the legislature.

## BAPTIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT

Bible school at 10.00 a. m., with classes for all ages.

Preaching by the pastor 11 a. m. and 8.00 p. m. Morning subject: "Relation of good Works to Salvation" Evening Subject: "Will God hear a sinners Prayers?"

The Taylor county singing convention will meet in this church at 2 p. m. and spend the afternoon in singing. There will be classes from all over the county and we are promised much good singing. You are invited to come and sing or come and listen.

B. Y. P. U. 5 p. m. Jr. Union meeting in the annex 5 p. m.

Teachers meeting 7:30 p. m. Monday. Prayer meeting and choir practice Wednesday 8 p. m.

A welcome awaits you in any or all these services. Ira L. Par-rack, Pastor. Phone 194.

Your Prescriptions will be filled accurately and by registered druggists at the Merkel Drug Company.

# Protection!



There is a Reason for the  
Guaranty Fund Law.

Ask us to explain what it  
means to you as a de-  
positor.

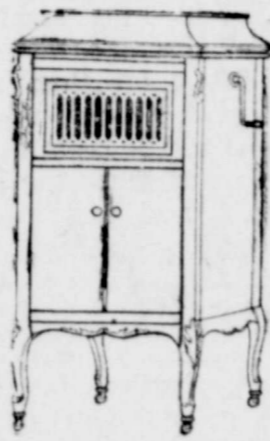
THE FARMERS STATE BANK

T. J. TOOMBS ..... President  
JOHN SEARS ..... Vice President  
R. L. BLAND ..... Vice President  
R. O. ANDERSON ..... Cashier

There are others here among us,  
Who will suffer on in silence  
Never let us see their tear drops,  
Never let a sigh betray them.  
Cover tear-stained eyes with powder,  
Tint the faded cheek with carmine,  
Face the world without a murmur.  
If we had a thousand heart keys,  
To the hearts of men and women;  
We would all be grieved to find there,  
Sorrows that we ne'er suspected,  
Wounds that are so fresh and bleeding,  
Scars that are so deep and lasting.  
The great spirit sent a message,  
Sent it in his word of wisdom  
That we should not judge another,  
We know not the hearts of others,  
He alone can deal out judgment,  
Judge with good and right-

ous judgement.  
First Tim., 6:17-19.  
Mrs. I. C. H.  
**FROM NUBIA**  
Last Thursday a crowd from around Nubia went on a fishing tour on sweetwater creek. Very few fish were caught but all reported a nice time and lots of good things to eat.  
The following persons were among the crowd: Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Latimer, Mr. and Mrs. John Latimer, Mr. and Mrs. Bedford Neill and family, Mr. and Mrs. Crow, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Blair, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Butman Jr. and Mrs. Butman Sr Mr. Bailey Whissenhunt and Mr Moran.  
Mr. and Mrs. Neill and family went fishing on Elm creek Saturday, but failed to catch the fish.  
Mr. Patton gave the young people a party Saturday night and all reported a nice time.  
Mr. Harrison left for Gorman Saturday.  
Mr. Reaves from Big Springs has been visiting his daughter Mrs. Harrison.

## PATHE PHONOGRAPHS



We have a good line of  
**Pathe Phonographs**  
Also Pathe Indestructable  
**Records**  
Each record guaranteed to  
play 1,000 tunes without  
changing needle.  
Come in and see them.

MERKEL DRUG CO.

## Farmers & Merchants NATIONAL BANK

The Bank that takes interest IN YOU  
as well as FROM YOU

Put it in a National Bank

### WHY?

The Banks carrying the largest deposits in any city of the United States are National Banks. Uncle Sam keeps the closest supervision over every National Bank.

Every Bank keeps a directory showing the capital and deposits of every bank in the United States together with other valuable information. Our Directory is open to the inspection of all our customers, or others who may wish to find out for themselves how depositors regard NATIONAL BANKS.

### HOWEVER

We are not relying on the above stated facts to secure and hold business.

### OUR REPUTATION

As a Safe, Conservative Bank sixteen years in the building and the personnel of our Managing officers and Directoate is our best guarantee that your funds will be sacredly guarded and that your interests will be promptly and efficiently served.

J. T. WARREN, President  
GEO. F. WEST, Vice President  
HENRY JAMES, Vice President  
L. R. THOMPSON, Cashier  
BOOTH WARREN, Asst. Cashier  
E. D. TEUTON, Asst. Cashier

### JUSTICE

land of corn and cotton,  
and oil and peace and  
plenty,  
Where the wolves no longer  
linger,  
At the door of many wigwams,  
Where man's step is ever  
quicker,  
Where the eye with hope shines  
brighter,  
Will prosperity and pleasure  
Destroy all our good intentions?  
Will we not consider others  
Who are not so blessed as we?  
Will we let the stranger suffer  
for a pleasant word of wel-  
come?  
Should we not be very grateful  
To the God who watches o'er  
us  
And has saved us from the mon-  
sters,  
War and unrest and from  
famine?  
And try to love one another,  
For the sake of Christ who  
loves us  
The poor ye have with you al-  
ways,  
Grief and sorrow e'er abound-  
ing.  
They are crushed beneath their  
burdens  
Just a smile or kind word  
strengthens  
Many come to try these lodg-  
ings,  
Some are gone and others go-  
ing,  
Just because they need some  
comfort,  
Need a friend in time of trou-  
ble,  
Need someone who will not  
doubt them,  
Crush their hearts with cruel  
judgment.  
There are some who have no  
courage,  
Are too weak to bear their  
burdens;  
Will be crushed beneath their  
burdens,  
We could give a smile or hand-  
shake,  
Give them sympathy or kind-  
ness,  
For the sake of God our father  
Who has mercy and compas-

# Young Men Suits

Prices are high, but just as sure as you live, they are \$5, \$7.50  
and \$10.00 less than most dealers would let you have them at.

We buy and sell for Cash, therefore we can sell for Less

SEE OUR \$5.00 TO \$6.50 MEN'S HATS

Fine all-wool blue serge pants for the good dresser at per pair \$12.50 to \$17.50

## Dress Goods

Great assortment of spring styles. Most anything you want.  
We bought them on contract several months ago and have just  
arrived. Prices are 25 to 50c per yard saving on many.

# The Brown Dry Goods Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Cargill went to  
Trent Saturday on business.

Mr. Wade Ensminger and  
Miss Viola Turner were mar-  
ried last Friday. The charming  
bride is the daughter of Mr. and  
Mrs. Wood Turner and the  
young groom is a son of Mr. and  
Mrs. J. H. Ensminger, of near  
Butman.

The singing at Mr. Wood  
Turner's last Sunday night was  
well attended.

Mr. Will Neill and family  
spent the day at Mr. Bedford  
Neill's last Sunday.

Mrs. McLean and Miss Gary  
McLean spent the day at Mr.  
Johnson's last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Latimer  
and Mrs. Thomas spent Monday  
night and Tuesday at Mr. Frank  
Whissenhunt's on Elm.

Mr. Dresden Casey spent Sat-  
urday night and Sunday with  
home folks.

He is attending school at Abi-  
lene.

Mr. T. J. Toombs and family  
and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Boden  
were visiting in the canyon Sun-  
day.

Mr. Levi and Miss Lola Har-  
rison visited Miss Ruby Neill  
Sunday evening.

There will be preaching at  
Nubia next Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Toombs  
motored to Merkel Saturday  
afternoon.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Dolly  
Mathews spent the day at Mr.  
Brook's Sunday.

Brown Eyes.

### NORTH SIDE CHURCH TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS

We are informed that the  
members of the North side  
church in Merkel have raised  
the money for the painting and  
otherwise repairing their house  
of worship, and the work on  
same will begin in the near fu-  
ture or as soon as the weather  
will permit.

Eld. W. G. Cypert, pastor of  
the church will begin a revival  
meeting at Roscoe next Friday  
night, which will continue for  
two weeks.



**"That's  
One of  
the  
Most  
Attractive  
Homes  
in  
Town!"**

"The Electric Lights make it so cheerful."

"And I know they have no housework worries—they wash and iron and clean electrically."

"Wish our house was wired!"

"So do I--"

**Don't wish, have your house wired---NOW!**

Come in and talk it over with us--learn how easily the work may be done. If you say so we'll send a man to call on you and figure and answer questions.

**MERKEL POWER CO.**  
Phone 202

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements are made subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July, 1920.  
District Offices ..... \$15.00  
County Offices ..... \$12.50  
Precinct Offices ..... \$8.00

For District Judge, 42nd Judicial District:

E. M. Overshiner  
W. R. Ely, of Baird.

District Clerk:  
James W. Mayfield  
J. Knox Fuller

For County Judge:  
W. E. Martin  
J. W. Moffett

For County Attorney:  
Carlos D. Speck,

For County Tax Assessor:  
Mrs. Florence Vance  
Roy Parmelly

County Treasurer:  
Austin Fitts.

For County Clerk:  
(Miss) Fannie Tippet

For Tax Collector:  
D. T. Harkrider  
J. N. Routh.

County Commissioner of Prec. 2  
S. A. (Sid) Coats.  
W. H. Frazier

County School Superintendent.  
John F. Odor.  
John R. Hutto

For Public Weigher:  
J. M. Garrett

#### A TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder troubles, gravel, diabetes, weak and lame back, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. Regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, by mail \$1.25. Small bottle is two month's treatment, and often perfects a cure. Send for testimonials from this and other states. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive, Street, St. Louis Mo., Sold by druggists.

We have just received a nice line of genuine Cut Glass. Merkel Drug Company.

#### HER AUNT'S WILL

By JACK LAWTON.

Copyright, 1919, Western Newspaper Union

Aunt Trimble leaned back in her chair and regarded her niece wrathfully.

"If you persist in your intention to marry this nobody," she said, "I will cut you out of my will and leave the money to charity. Was it to marry a poor clerk that I gave you education and accomplishments of the best?"

"Harry is not a nobody," Rhoda indignantly retorted, "he is a good man, and true. And he will not always be a clerk. His chosen business is one which promises steady advancement. But if it didn't," the girl added vehemently, "I'd marry him just the same."

"No doubt," muttered Aunt Trimble scornfully, "this Harry has not used his dark romantic eyes in vain. But if he were the man you think him to be, he would never accept the sacrifice you are making."

"Sacrifice!" cried the girl, the blue eyes gleaming. "Do you compare love for him with an old house no matter how grand and imposing? Why, I'd be happier in two rooms with my Harry, than mistress of all this estate."

"You shall have your wish then, ungrateful girl," the Aunt said bitterly; impulsively she tapped a bell at her side.

"Get Mr. Timmons, my lawyer on the 'phone," she commanded the maid who answered. "Tell him my business is immediately important. I wish to change my will."

A man's figure came quickly through the hall.

"I could not help hearing," said a grave voice, "what has just been said. Your voices carried, as I came up."

The young man turned a white face upon the girl, his eyes were tragic. "And Rhoda," he went on, "your aunt is right about my selfishness in allowing you to make this sacrifice. I can't take you this way dear; I'm but a poor clerk after all, and I have not the courage to face those 'two rooms' of which you spoke, for your home. After all the luxury of your bringing up, in your heart, you would soon reproach me. But, neither can I give you up dear. Won't you wait Rhoda, until I see my way perhaps to better things? I exact no promise; you shall be free to choose, but—"

The old lady leaned forward, rustling in her silks.

"You hear your lover," she said sharply. "Even he at last realizes the barrier between. You can give him your promise of waiting, without being actually bound. Then, when Mr. Timmons arrives, I shall say that his presence is not needed. My will shall remain as it is, with you as sole legatee."

With burning cheeks the girl stood regarding them both—the trembling old aunt, the sorrowful lover.

"You may do as you wish with your will, Aunt Trimble," she said quietly. "And you, Harry, may renounce me if you will. I have no wish to wait for a more successful suitor—for that I suppose is what the 'waiting' amounts to." She left the room before either could reply.

The man bowed to the old woman in her chair and went sadly down the hall and out into the street. When he endeavored upon the following morning to see his sweetheart, and to make a further plea for her own interests, he was met by the discouraging announcement that Rhoda had secretly departed from her aunt's dwelling the night before, leaving only a brief message to the effect that she had gone away to "earn her living."

The aunt looked white and worn when Harry Amsden sought her out.

"Rhoda has left us completely in the dark as to her whereabouts," she said wearily, "but, she will come back."

Rhoda did not come back. Harry's own search for her was unavailing. The girl had apparently been lost among the many brave workers of whose lives she had heretofore known nothing.

Hopelessly, from time to time, the lover sought the stern old woman. An occasional communication came from Rhoda at various places. She was evidently using chance friends to mail her letters from different points. The messages told them merely that she was well and self-supporting. The last brought a slight clue, which Harry followed immediately to success.

Rhoda greeted him wan and joyous-eyed, from behind the head of a customer upon whom she had been trying various hats. But Harry did not leave his love, thereafter, until he brought her home with him as his wife.

He had telegraphed Aunt Trimble as soon as Rhoda had been found. Later he sent word of their marriage; but when the two ascended in some trepidation the steps of the stately old mansion, Mr. Timmons, the lawyer, met them at the door.

"Your Aunt Trimble went happily to sleep last night," he told them. "It is a sleep from which she will never awaken." And then Rhoda and her husband sat, still solemn in their wonder, in the old library. Mr. Timmons came to them.

Your aunt wished me to tell you without ceremony," he said solemnly, "of the changes in her will. She wanted it understood that the will was altered the day that Harry Amsden made his renunciation. The entire estate and fortune was bequeathed to him with a compliment in the wording:

"Had I met in my youth a man like Harry Amsden, I wrote your aunt, 'I should not have lived my life single.'"

## OUR GROCERIES

Are not better than the rest  
But they are as good as the Best

There is not an old piece of merchandise in the house. Our stock is complete and our prices are right, and our list of satisfied customers continues to grow.

We invite you to call and inspect our stock, get our prices, give us a trial this month, and you too, will become one of our regular satisfied customers.

## Bradshaw & Sublett

Front Street

Phone 195

#### BLAIR NEWS

Mr. Raymond Bankhead spent Saturday night with Mr. Price Melton.

Mr. T. H. Spears and family attended the singing convention at Hodes Sunday.

Mr. T. J. Milton and family spent Sunday with Mr. E. L. Bankhead and family.

Mr. J. A. Bland and son have been the guests of O. W. Walker the past week.

Miss Alpha Williams, Miss Nina Provine and Mr. Marcena Doan spent Tuesday night with Mrs. Merman Doan.

Mr. Chalmer Patterson entertained a few of his friends last Thursday night with a musical entertainment. All reported a delightful time.

Mr. J. W. Mayfield and family spent Sunday in Hodges.

Mr. J. S. Hughes and family spent Sunday with his brother Charlie Hughes.

Miss Docia Doan gave her pound supper. There was a large

crowd and all reported a fine time.

Mr. Ed Blackburn and family spent Sunday with Mrs. Claude Doan.

Mr. Carl Hughes and wife spent Sunday with Mrs. Claude Doan.

Mrs. Vera Doan will give a candy braking Saturday night everyone is invited to come. Little Dot.

L. T. Levy, the genial manager for the Burton-Lingo Lumber Company of this city, returned Wednesday from Seminole, Texas where he had accompanied Mrs. Levy on a visit to her parents. She will spend some time on her visit.

#### DRAGHON'S PRACTICAL Business College

ABILENE, TEXAS  
Only well-known Business College in West Texas. Thousands of firms nearer our Employment Department than any other. Money-back contract guarantees position. Catalogue FREE

## Shakespeare Was Right

When He Said

"He who has a house to put his head in  
Has a good head-piece."

The same good judgment will apply to a garage or farm building, as they furnish protection that means economy and saving.

For economy in Designs and Quality Materials see our Service Department.

We can help you plan and build to insure Greater Value for your Dollar.

**BURTON-LINGO CO.**  
Building Service and Materials

Phone 74

L. D. Levy, Local Mgr.

**OWN YOUR OWN HOME**

## FRESH VEGETABLES

Received Twice a Week

Trade with us and save money on your  
**GROCERIES**

Come and get our Prices and decide for yourself

Phone 26

**Sanitary Self-Serving Store**

**WILLIS & COCKRELL**

BETTER

Painting and Paper Hanging

# MARTIN SISTERS CO.

Commencing April 19 --- All Next Week

SCREAMING FUNNY COMEDY PLAYS A Jazz Orchestra THE SERVANT IN THE HOUSE---MONDAY NITE

## The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC. THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the postoffice at Merkel Texas as second class mail matter.

It may be a little dry in this country just now, but the most of us have seen it much dryer.

Among its reminiscence of 15 years ago, the Abilene Reporter dated April 13 states that H. M. Rainboldt, formerly of Stephens county, has become a citizen of Taylor county, and is now settled two miles south of Merkel, in a beautiful home, on a fine farm. And we might add that Mr. Rainboldt, who is one of the very best and most influential citizens of the county, still resides on this fine farm.

H. M. Rose was among those doing jury service in Abilene this week.

W. Y. Steene, of Trent, was here recently on business, and made this office a pleasant and appreciated visit.

New Georgette Blouses and Pettecoats just received at the Star Store.

G. D. Bennett of Whitewright Texas, was here this week for a visit to his brother who lives north of here, just over in Fisher county, and to look after his farm near Stith, and which is located adjacent to the deep test to be put down near Stith. He will keep posted on developments here by reading the Mail. He also stated that it was dry in east Texas just as it is here.

W. G. Leach, one of the courteous and efficient operators for Western Union, in this city, has been wearing a smile this week which just won't rub off at all. And all on account of the arrival at his home on April 13 of a 10 pound baby boy.

Miss Mamie Moore has resigned her position with the Humble Oil and Refining Co., of Fort Worth and will take a business course, after which she will be with a firm in Tulsa, Okla. Miss Mamie is a Merkel girl and we wish her much success.

D. S. Whitlow of Temple, was here this week for a visit to his daughter, who is staying at the home of her grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Boney, and attending school. While here Mr. Whitlow had the Mail to continue to visit him.

Shorts and Brand at G. M. Sharp's.

## ABOUT WASTE PAPER

Notice is hereby given that there is a city ordinance in the city of Merkel against the throwing on the streets and alleys by the citizens of waste paper and other trash, which may cause a devastating fire at any time. And this is to notify every one that this law must be enforced, and those violating it are subject to prosecution. If you have waste paper, put it in an appropriate wire basket or container and burn it, where there will be no danger of causing a destructive fire. J. H. Witcher, Marshal.

Mrs. N. E. Peebles, formerly of Merkel, but late of Arizona, has purchased the Merkel Hat Shop on Kent street, and will continue the business.

Mrs. T. H. Tarbet and son T. H. Jr., of Lamesa, are here for a visit to C. P. Hendrix, and other relatives.

Mrs. Looney left first of the week for a visit to friends and relatives at Cisco and Menard.

H. L. Propst, Ross Ferrier and family, Mack Angus and family, are among those of our people who are attending the Automobile show in Fort Worth this week.

## AN APRIL SHOWER

Mrs. Geo. Smith and Mrs. E. F. Nix gave a surprise shower at the home of N. A. Sheppard Wednesday evening, April 7th, for Mr. Lloyd Sheppard and wife who slipped away from their friends and were quietly married in Eastland, April 5th.

Many friends were present at the shower bringing many useful gifts. Forty-two and music furnished pleasure throughout the evening. Ice cream and cake were served by the hostess and Mrs. Gamble. Those present were: Messrs Mell Davis, J. C. White, J. D. Gibson Lee Baker, Andrew Baker, Denzel Cox, Marion Boden, H. C. Laman, J. L. Baker, W. A. Sheppard, Frank McFarland, Dent Gibson and E. F. Nix.

The ladies were: Misses Elsie Davis, Luna White, Minnie Houghton, Sallie Curb, Iona Gale Peterson, Wallace Wheeler, Joyce Wheeler, Edna Watts, Stella Paul Watts, Naomi Gibson, and Parilee Ash. Mesdames Frank Mc Farland, S. D. Gamble, J. L. Baker, D. F. Gibson, and Mell Peterson.

We understand Mr. J. S. Swann of this city has been appointed Precinct chairman by the county Chairman of the Democratic party in Taylor county, and will call a Democratic convention for this precinct for the first Saturday in May, at which time delegates will be selected to the county convention, where delegates will be chosen to the State convention.

Fresh car of Peacemaker Flour at G. M. Sharp's.

Mrs. L. B. Scott and baby left Monday for Arlington where they will visit the former's parents for several days. Mr. Scott left Tuesday to join them. While away they will attend a meeting of the Texas Ford dealers in Dallas this week.

Fresh Cream Meal at G. M. Sharp's.

Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Dooley, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Butler, J. N. Shelton, Mrs. J. B. Warren, Mrs. Edna McClain and Guy McClain, were among those of Merkel attending a meeting of the Abilene Presbytery, which met at Anson Wednesday.

Read the Merkel Mail everyday

S. L. Dryden of the firm of Leeson & Dryden, Marble dealers, at Abilene, was here first of the week. He became a reader of the Mail and stated that he expected to soon become a regular advertiser in the columns of the Mail.

Comb Honey at G. M. Sharp's.

## ICE DELIVERED

I am now prepared to deliver your ice. I have made arrangements with the Electric Company to take orders until I get my phone in. Phone 202 or 204 and your order will be filled Yours truly, Ed's Ice Co., E. E. Leslie, Mgr.

## U. S. Government Wagon Covers \$13.45

POSTAGE PAID—EVERY COVER NEW  
The first time new Government Wagon Covers have ever been offered! And you can buy them for considerably less than the present price of light-weight flimsy Covers of doubtful quality.

U. S. Government Wagon Covers 11 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. 8 in. of heavy Olive Drab Duck; all complete with ropes. Every Cover is new—warranted never used—all perfect.

Fine, big Wagon Covers that weigh nearly 20 pounds, \$13.45 each complete; postage paid.

Remit by Postoffice Money Order, Express Money Order, Cashier's Check or Exchange.

You run no risk. Everything exactly as advertised. We guarantee Covers as represented. Order today—the supply won't last long.

## Federal Distributing Co.

359-361 E. Commerce St. SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.  
Distributors of Government Tents, Wagon Covers, Blankets, Harness, Saddles and other Army Goods Direct to the User.

## RACER

Two passenger racer, design body on Ford. Good condition all tires practically new. For sale cheap. W. A. McSpadden.

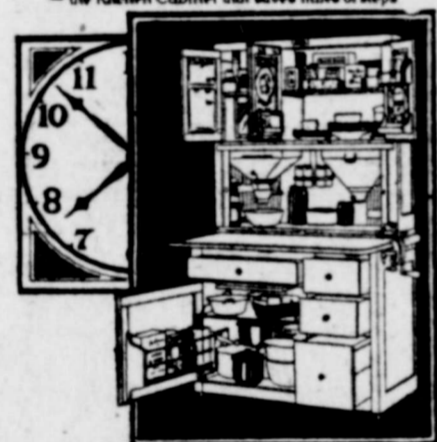
Take your chickens and eggs to W. P. Duckett, he will pay you 20 cents per pound for your hens and the highest market price for your eggs.

FOR SALE—My Merkel home Price \$5000. Cost of improvements. Write Dr. O. F. McMaster Port Lavaca, Texas.

Light Crust Flour at G. M. Sharp's.

Mrs. Geo. F. West and daughter, Miss Zoe, are spending the week in Mineral Wells.

## HOOSIER



2,000,000 RECOMMEND THE HOOSIER

Hoosiers are classed "better" by more housewives than any other cabinet. They are rendering labor-saving service to a greater number of women than any other cabinet.

Nearly two million women are now using the Hoosier. These facts should guide you. The efficiency of this multitude of kitchens should be duplicated in your house. The cabinet this army of women have selected should be your choice.

We have received another big shipment of Hoosiers. Come in and examine the Hoosier and you will have no other. They are by far the best cabinet on the market for the money.

We give tickets with every 50c purchase, for Rogers Silverware. Don't fail to call for your tickets.

How about your Refrigerator? You had better hurry while we have the style and size you want.

We now have Porch Swings, Chairs, Settees and all kinds of summer goods. Come in and look them over.

Barrow Furniture Compny

## Don't Overlook

that subscription. If you are in arrears remember that we can always find good use for

the MONEY

## Better Bakery SERVICE

With the enstalling of our equipment consisting of the very latest and best to be had for conducting a bakery, we are prepared to furnish our patrons with the best bread, cakes, pies etc., to be found in even a city. And if you will just try some of these delicacies, you too will join our ever increasing number of regular and satisfied customers.

IT'S FRESH, CLEAN AND PURE

Our large variety of Home Made Candies are unexcelled, Fresh and Wholesome.

We need your business and will appreciate it. And don't forget our Saturday Specials.

MERKEL BAKERY & CANDY KITCHEN

**HIGH SCHOOL NOTES**  
(By Abbie Ruth Darsey)

Some examination questions and answers:  
Where are the descendents of the ancient Britons to be found today? In the British museum.  
How would you make soft water hard? Freeze it.  
Isinglass is a glass used by doctors to look into their patient eyes with.  
The "midnight sun" is usually called the moon.  
In the United States of America people are put to death by elocution.  
The dodo is a bird that is nearly extinct now.  
The basket ball coaches, Miss Garrett and Mr. Cary, fittingly entertained their respective teams Monday night. Mr. Cary gave the boys a supper at Mr. Jones's, while Miss Garrett entertained the girls at her home. After supper the boys went to Miss Garrett's home where the two teams jointly entertained for the remainder of the evening.

Maurine: "I don't intend to be married until I am thirty."  
Ruby: "Well I don't intend to be thirty until after I am married."  
Murphy: "Would you think it right to punish anyone for something she had not done, Mr. Burgess?"  
Mr. Burgess: "No of course I shouldn't."  
Murphy: "Well I haven't done any of my 'trig' problems for today."  
Exams are like the poor; we have them always with us.  
The Freshman's Friday morning program is like our expected "pep" meeting; it hasn't happened yet.

The only course in which some of us will ever graduate is the course of life.  
Chester: "Girls are much better looking than boys."  
Doyle: "Why yes, naturally."  
Chester: "No Artificially."  
Everything is quiet in school this week, nothing happening. We are nearing the close of school and most of us have decided at last that it is time to get busy.  
Pupils of 8B, Hours 8A. Oh! they're all punk. If they don't get their lessons we're sure they will flunk.  
Pupils of 8A—(Coming back at 8B). The 8B don't like us. They all try to split us, but it won't be long until they'll be gone.

**MULBERRY ITEMS**

The farmers of this community are talking up that old habit again—looking for rain.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Baker have returned from a trip to Wichita Falls, and points in Oklahoma.  
Mrs. S. D. Martin and B. N. Billingsley are leaving to drive their new Fords. All who value life or limb should take care to give them the road.  
Mr. Bristoe and family returned Monday from Erath county.  
Mrs. Milton Walsh and Miss Viola Jordan are on the sick list this week.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Price and children motored to Loraine the latter part of last week.  
Mrs. Lavinia Horton, Mrs. Nora Bird and Mrs. Roscoe Horton were visitors of Mrs. Alice Martin Sunday afternoon.  
W. T. Bird is visiting relatives in Knoxville Tennessee and points in North Carolina.  
Mrs. Kate Berkeley, of Slaton, Texas, visited the families of Hamilton Chancey, J. Andrews and Misses Frankie and Maggie Lee Chancey, last week.  
Will Moore and Mrs. W. C. Moore are visiting relatives in Fort Worth and Hill county.  
It is rumored out here that Joe Baily, who we had understood "died" several years ago, is under the delusion that he is still alive. (Politically.)

**MARRIED AT ABILENE**

Mr. Sam H. Rosson, and Miss Vella Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smith, of Trent, quietly stole away from their friends on last Saturday and went to Abilene, where they were happily united in marriage.  
Both the young people are splendid and popular young folks of Trent, and the Mail join their host of friends in extending to them best wishes for much happiness and prosperity through their future career.

The Farmers and Merchants National Bank will be glad to deposit in its money safe, any bonds or securities registered and left with it for safe keeping. Customers keeping bonds in private boxes, who wish this additional security should register bonds with this bank. This bank will at all times render its customers every service that can be had by any bank. Come in and talk it over with us. Farmers & Merchants National Bank. tf

Read the Merkel Mail everyday

# You Are Invited

You are invited to visit our new store, opened not quite two months ago, and to inspect and compare the qualities, values and prices of the various articles we offer in

## DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, READY TO WEAR AND MEN'S FURNISHINGS

This is the Merkel store where people come to look and stay to buy. Seeing is believing. Make the L. & G. Store your headquarters when in Merkel.

# THE L. & G. STORE

Front Street

The state inspector of High Schools, Miss Pofflewell, visited Merkel High school Thursday and made a most favorable report of our work. She recommended enough credits to make us a total of fourteen. She also gave us an incentive for harder work, at least for Thursday.  
Mr. Miller asked the seventh grade: "What are the sister states?"  
Grace answered: "I am not sure but I should think they were Miss-Ouri, Ida-Ho, Mary-Land, Callie-Fornia, Louise-Ana, Della-Ware, Minnie-Sota and Mrs.-Sippie."  
The base ball team had their first real game of the season last Friday, April 9, on the high school grounds. It was a good fast game from start to finish,

although our boys lost the game by a score of 12 to 9. The battle was hard and our boys fought bravely for their first game. The town boys have been helping our boys along and we hope that they will continue to do so. We are assured that Merkel will win over Sweetwater in their next game by getting all of our players in.  
Fifteen hours credit went off on a spree, and got bounced from English so then he dropped three.  
Twelve hours credit. He was going fine.  
Found "Math" too difficult. Then there were nine.  
Nine hours credit. Thought he'd try some tricks. He blew up the Science Lab. Then there were six.

Six hours credit. He felt very free.  
History grew boaring. Then there were three.  
Three hours credit. And an ivory dome.  
Didn't mix together. So the lad went home.

**ICE! ICE!**

As I have to pay for my ice before I sell it, I can not do any credit business, so please do not ask me. Coupons are cash upon delivery. Cash sales are cash, when I deliver the ice. Have money ready I have no pencil to charge it until tomorrow. My memory is all gone so I can not remember it until tomorrow. Yours to please, Ed's Ice Co. It

# COZY THEATRE

MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY 2 TO 5

Big 7-Reel Show	SPECIAL MATINEE SATURDAY			Admission only 10-20c
	Wm. S. Hart in "Square Deal"	"Fatty" Arbuckle in "Antique Bride"	Tom Mix in "Cactus Jim"	

Friday, April 16  
**Helen Holmes in "Fatal Fortune" No. 12**  
ALSO  
Good Western and Comedy

Monday, April 19  
**Great Gamble No. 5 Invisible Hand No. 5**  
ALSO  
A Vitagraph Comedy  
AND  
A "Baby" Osburn Comedy-Drama

Wednesday, April 21  
Fox Special Feature  
WITH  
**Theda Bara in "La Belle Russe"**  
ALSO  
Fox Sunshine 2-Reel Comedy

Saturday April 17  
**Gladys Brockwell Al St. John**  
IN IN  
"Thieves" "Speed"  
MUTT & JEFF in "Ice Land"

Tuesday, April 20  
A Paramount-Artcraft Feature  
WITH  
**Vivian Martin Topics**  
in of The Day  
"The Third Kiss" Fox News

Thursday, April 22  
**Johnny Ray in "Jiggs in Society"**  
**Lila Lee in "Puppy Love"**

Big Seven Reel Special	Airdome Program Saturday April 17			Admission only 10-20c
	Tom Mix in "The Twisted Trail"	Hall Room Boys in "Almost Heroes"	Franklin Farnum in "The Desert Rat"	

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

Milk cows for sale see Chas. Orr, Rt. 3, Merkel, Tex. 26t8p

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Double row cultivator, first class condition. J. B. Lilly. 2t2p

FOR SALE—Early picked good mebane cotton seed at \$2.00 per bushel at ben.—J. W. Teaff, Merkel, Texas. 2t3p

I have a registered Jack a horse and jersey mail for service at Boney Stable. See Tom Jenkins or L.L. Huddleston. 2t6p

Coal and cow feed all the time If you don't find me leave orders with Mr. Mayfield at scales. Swafford. 2t4c

FOR TRADE—44 Acres of first class shinary land, for good car, Ford Preferred. Land located 17 miles Northeast of Abilene, and a mile and half of the Phantom Hill Oil well. See J. H. Craig, Merkel, Texas. 9t2p

Just a few bushels cotton seed left. This cotton made better yield than other mebane seed under same conditions. See me, or phone 291.—T. J. R. Swafford. 2t4c

FOR SALE—Red top cane, free from Johnson grass. S. C. Keny, Phone 9032R21. 9t2p

**SERVING MEALS**

I wish to announce to my friends and to the public that I have opened my dining room to the public in connection with my rooming house. Mrs. Annie McClain, first door south of the Presbyterian Church. 9t2

Prices are right at Jobs store. Come see. 9t2

FOR SALE—House, close in on the South side. Will take good Ford car as first payment. S. F. Haynes. tf

LOST—Ring of keys. Finder please return to J. T. Darsey. 1tp

FOR SALE—Red top seed cane, free from Johnson grass. S. C. Keny, Phone 9032R21. 16t2p

LOST—A pair of gold rim glasses. May have lost them near J. B. Bell's stock pens. Finder please notify J. T. Humphreys, Tye, Route 1. 1tp

FOR SALE—1918 model Ford touring car, with over size body. Price \$230.00 or will trade for light truck. Merkel Produce company. 1tp

LOST—About two weeks ago a small package containing a veil. Please return to Wilmer Garrett and receive reward. 1tp

Ten Boarders and Roomers wanted at once.—Mrs. I. J. Logan. 16t3p

COLORITE—Makes old hats new. Merkel Drug Co. tf

REGISTERED TRADE MARK

**LITTELL'S LIQUID SULPHUR COMPOUND**

It is a powerful and scientific combination of sulphur and other healing agents for the relief and cure of diseases of the skin. It is especially effective in the ITCHING VARIETIES; giving instant relief from the itching and smarting sensations and by its germ-destroying properties it exterminates the microbe which is the cause of the eruption, thus curing the disease completely.  
Littell's Liquid Sulphur Compound is used in all cases of Eczema, Tetter, Barber's Itch, Psoriasis, Herpes, Rash, Oak and Ivy Poisoning, also for relieving the annoyance caused by chiggers and mosquito bites.  
In the treatment of ECZEMA—the most painful and obstinate of all skin diseases—it is one of the most successful remedies known.  
Small size 50 cents bottle. Large size \$1.00  
JAMES F. BALLARD, Prop. St. Louis, Mo.

## TWO IN A BOAT

By LULU M. PAULEY.

(© 1919, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

"It's just three months ago today," reflected Lydia. "In another week the hotel will be closed, the guests gone, and we'll be gone, too."

"Yes," nodded Bob; "it seems such a short time since—and what a heap of nice girls!" He broke off abruptly and headed the boat towards the willows.

Lydia looked sweetly sympathetic. "Tell me about them," she urged. "The heap of nice girls."

"I'd rather you'd tell your story first," returned Bob, half wistfully.

She glanced at him demurely. "All right," she replied, good-naturedly, and began:

"I came down here the first week in June and met you for the second time since our schooldays. We became engaged, but the engagement was conditional. That is, if either of us met some one else whom we liked better, we were at liberty to do as we pleased, in case we let each other know." She paused impressively and struck at the water with her long, white fingers. "It was your idea, and contained not the slightest opening for one of those interesting breach-of-promise suits."

Bob flushed, but said nothing.

"The next one to propose," she continued, "was Mr. Hillary, who owns that splendid yacht down at the harbor. Then came Mr. Meridan, Charlie Dibble, Victor and that dear, fat college boy, Percy Downey. I refused Percy, of course. He was deadly in earnest, and I was afraid when he should find I was only a summer girl he might do something unpleasant. Girls should avoid the man who has not lived long enough in this world to understand its ways."

"Little philosopher," applauded Bob. "I'm not very worldly-wise; aren't you afraid I'll make a fuss?"

Lydia shook her fluffy head. "You made the conditions of our engagement, so you ought not to make a fuss."

"Never," breathed Bob, quickly; "I'll not do that. Pray continue your delightfully interesting tale," and he splashed the water spitefully with the oars.

"The last was Mr. Harper, who boards at Elm cottage."

At the mention of Mr. Harper, Bob burst into an uncontrollable fit of laughter and made the boat rock violently.

"Stop immediately!" cried the girl; "you'll upset the boat."

"I have two engagement-rings," she



# Eclipse Wind Mills

☞ We carry the Old Reliable Eclipse Wind Mills and if you need a mill you will make no mistake in putting up an Eclipse Mill.

☞ We also handle other makes of windmills, and a full line of Pipe and Fixtures. Call on us for windmills and mill supplies.

☞ Plenty Poultry Wire, Screen Wire and Oil Stoves, all of which are now in season.

☞ See us for Wagons, Buggies, Implements, Shelf Hardware, and in fact, anything you may need in the hardware line. We have the goods and our prices are right.

# Groceries

☞ We now have a car of that good American Beauty Flour. It makes the kind of bread they all praise. We have a full line of fresh Groceries always on hand. Try us for groceries, we will please you—and save you money.

# Crown Hardware Company



During the war of course building patriotically was restricted to essential construction.

Today it is patriotic to build as extensively as you will.

There is no reason for delay at this time. To consolidate the prosperity of Peace BUILD



retorted. "One is yours. You may have it now if you wish."

He silently lighted a cigarette.

"You'll need it for one of those nice girls you've met," she suggested quietly. "Do I know her?"

"I believe you do." His tones were curt.

"I think," he remarked coldly, turning the boat out into midstream, "that we had better be going back to the hotel. The sun is already set and there is no moon tonight."

"Why, Mr. Porter," she cried, "there was a beautiful moon last night, so, of course, there must be another tonight. Mr. Morton and I sat out for a long time last evening admiring it."

"I suppose he is the fellow you are going to marry," Bob growled. "I remember seeing him about the hotel. Sort of a sissy, is he not? One of those 'I'm mamma's boy, I am. I can talk to the girls. I know how.'"

"Oh, aren't you horrid?" laughed Lydia. "I think Mr. Morton is very nice, indeed."

"And quite ladylike, too," Bob slightly added.

"You're not obliged to like him," flashed Lydia.

"Certainly not. I say, Lydia, I'm going away in the morning—very early. Do you care?"

"Is that so?" Her tone was bantering. "How disappointed the heap of nice girls will be. Such a bright, eligible young man."

Bob's tanned face burned redly and he gave his full attention to the oars.

"I suppose it's the other girl whom you are going to see," she remarked thoughtfully. "How glad she'll be!"

"Deuce take the other girl!" broke from Bob's lips impatiently. "Lydia, don't you care the least little bit?"

Lydia's pink cheeks grew a shade deeper and her blue eyes twinkled brightly. "I wish you would explain," she said, provokingly; "I really do not understand you."

Bob ceased rowing and gazed at her long and steadily. Then he turned his gaze thoughtfully across the river.

"Arne't we going in?" she pettishly asked.

Bob turned his face to her with a glow of determination in his clear, brown eyes.

"I'll tell you the name of the girl I love, if you will tell me the name of the chap you're going to marry," he informed her, rather cheerfully.

"Indeed," she returned frigidly; "you needn't bother."

"Come now, Miss Vane," he urged. "I'm certain that you are dying to know. I have her photo with me, too."

Lydia hesitated a moment, then she laughed half hysterically.

"Show me the photo," she said.

He drew it caressingly from an inside pocket and held it out to her. Her lips trembled as she looked at it. Then their eyes met.

"You are the chap I am going to marry," she said softly.

### NOTICE TO PUBLIC

I am preparing to take care of your building needs, have plenty of first class carpenters. Come and see me and let me figure your work. Estimates free P. L. McClary Contractor. Phone 19.

### KILL THE BLUE BUGS

And all kinds of Blood sucking insects, by feeding Martins Wonderful Blue Bug Killer to your chickens. Your money back if not absolutely satisfied. Ask Sanders Drug Store. Feb6t26

COLORITE—Makes old hats new. Merkel Drug Co. tf

# EGGS

Will Pay Top Cash Price For Eggs Butter and Poultry

**Merkel Produce Co.**  
On Kent Street Near Blair Hotel

For Windmill Repairing and First-Class Plumbing

SEE **BEN JONES**

All Work Guaranteed Satisfactory  
Headquarters with G. F. West Co. Telephone 59

### PROFESSIONAL

**DR. GAMBILL**

—D-e-n-t-i-s-t—

Office Hours 8—12 a.m.; 1—5 pm  
Over Woodroof-Bragg Co.  
Office Phone 116

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Over Woodroof-Bragg Company  
Physician and Surgeon  
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Real Estate, Fire, Accident and  
Tornado Insurance Agent.  
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Office over Crown Hardware Co.  
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State Bank. 22Sept17

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Ladies and Gents Work.  
All Work Guaranteed  
Will call for and deliver work.  
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Physician and Surgeon  
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.  
Phones 105-163 Res. 165

**DR. S W. JOHNSON.**

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Office over Farmers State Bank  
Office Phone 306

**DR. CHAS. F. WILLIAMS**

Chronic Diseases a Specialty.  
General Practice  
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Real Estate, Oil Stock, And  
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Represent Pocahuntas Lease and  
Royalty Co. of Dallas  
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**DR. McGUIRE**

Graduate Optician  
Ballinger Texas  
At Dr. Smith and Grimes Office  
Thursday, April 15th  
Merkel, Texas

For engineering and surveying  
address, Geo. R. DeNise,  
Sweetwater Texas. 20tf

# SILKS AN APRIL SALE TO MEET THE NEED OF EVERY WOMAN FOR STYLISH SPRING GARMENTS SILKS

Our apparel is not for every woman, but for those who sense the beautiful. Those who have a keen appreciation for the importance of good style, will find that their ideals have been anticipated here to a degree they never thought possible.

Come in and see our new spring and summer fashions and never mind how modest your requirements are. In this store service is not regulated by the amount you spend.

**TAFFETA**—This Silk leads all other Silks in popularity. Twotoned, plain, checked and striped Taffeta are favored for evening and street wear. Special, the yard, only..... \$3.45  
**TAFFETA**—Blue and Brown continue to be the leading colors in Taffeta. You will find exquisite qualities, 36 inches wide at prices, the yard, from \$3.50 upward to ..... \$4.50  
**TAFFETA**—Pompador and print warp Taffeta are among the very new est of the season's weaves. Shown in light and dark patterns that are suitable for every occasion; 36-inch, at ..... \$4.35  
**GEORGETTE CREPE**—A complete showing of plain and printed Georgette in lovely colors and patterns; 40 inches wide. For dresses overdresses and blouses. Yard, \$3.00 to ..... \$4.50  
**CREPE DE CHINE**—The real staple of the silk family. Suitable for every occasion. See our complete line in all the newest colorings; 40 inches wide. Priced, yard, \$2.50 to ..... \$3.50  
**CREPE METEOR**—A soft clinging material that drapes beautifully and is desirable for general wear; 40 inches wide; in a good range of colors. Priced the yard only ..... \$3.98  
**PONGEE**—Suitable for blouses, suits, dresses, children's play suits and men's shirts. In fine washable qualities, 32 inches wide. Priced, the yard, from \$1.45 upward to ..... \$3.98

**HABUTAI DRESS SILKS AT \$3.15**—An ideal wash silk for dresses of service during the summer. Practical for children's wear or blouses. They come in small pink or blue checks. The same in narrow or wide stripes.  
**DRESS FOULARDS AT \$3.45**—A superior assortment of 40-inch Foulards. Navies and white predominate, with plenty of brown and Copenhagen grounds. A rare value in a practical summer fabric.  
**FANCY GEORGETTES AT \$4.15**—An unlimited assortment of Fancy Georgettes in both light and dark grounds. A heavy Georgette that insures good wear. A splendid value.  
**WHITE JAPANESE SILK AT \$2.25**—Ideal for many uses during the summer months. Washes perfectly, wears splendid, 36 inches wide. A good value.  
**NATURAL SHANTUNGS AT \$2.15**—Useful for children's dresses, pajamas, blouses and shirts. Washes perfectly. 33 inches wide.  
**\$10.00 PAULETTES AT \$6.90**—This popular knitted fabric in a superior quality, finish, weight and texture. For suits and skirts of service. in the best shades of navy, brown, taupe, French blue, tan and black. An unusual value.  
**COLORS CREPE DE CHINES AT \$2.95**—A fine color assortment of 40-inch Crepes—heavy weight with high luster finish. Plenty pinks, flesh and white.

Come, see, compare and be convinced of this wonderful value giving sale, which embraces the whole entire stock

## THE ECONOMY

AGENTS FOR STANDARD PATTERNS

We serve Ice Cream every day at the sanitary self serving store.

Mrs. F. A. Sanders is visiting friends and relatives in San Angelo this week.

### GOLAN SCRIBBLES

Messrs Ernest Thompson and T. B. Stephens motored to Abilene Friday.

Miss Dixie Duncan visited Miss Edna Cox Sunday.

Misses Ella Cox, Viola Cook, Pauline and Bettie Byron and Vida Williams were guests of Misses Ola and Edith Thompson Sunday.

Miss Gertrude Byron visited Audra Dell Hudspeth Sunday.

The young people enjoyed a party at Miss Birdie Jeffrey's Friday night also one at Miss Dixie Duncan's Saturday night.

Grandpa Rollins is reported to be worse at this writing.

Chester Cox and family spent the day with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cox, Sunday.  
Sunshine

### "SALTY DOPE"

Salt Branch is Still the most progressive country to be found anywhere. Everyone has a job and is always on the job. The farmers, while they are not busy with their crops, are busy killing rabbits, and fishing also seems to be a pleasant occupation for some.

The chapel exercises, which are given every Tuesday and Friday mornings at school are creating much interest. Those on side No. 1 are closely disputed by those on No. A-1. The contest promises to be very interesting. A good base ball team has been organized, and the players are busy practicing.

### STRAYED OR STOLEN

From the Fuqua place about twelve miles south of Merkel, on or about the first of April, three mares, seven, three and two years old. One has stripe down forehead, one a white hind foot and the other a solid bay. Will pay \$25.00 reward for information leading to or the return of these animals to me. Notify Doyle Pogue, Merkel, Tex. 2tp

## The Security Production Co.

Is not Dependant on one Oil Field, nor one or a Dozen Wells for its Production

The Company Owns enough acreage in three Proven Fields to drill thirty Oil Wells.

Authorized Capital \$1,000,000.00

All common stock fully Paid

and non-assessable

Shares Par Value \$10.00 Each

The company plans to drill the first few wells in Louisiana where the production is large.

Now drilling in East Texas. Planning to drill several wells in Louisiana, Kemp-Munger Field and Desdemonia.

The company owns and operates its own drills. Now operating in Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico

## Announcement

Mr. E. D. Coats of Merkel has been assigned the following territory: Taylor county, Jones county, Fisher county, Nolan county, Scurry county and Mitchell county, to transact all matters pertaining to sale of stock and purchase of leases. All parties interested will kindly get in touch with Mr. E. D. COATS, General Field Manager, Merkel, Texas.

### Summary of the Security Production Co's Holdings

Bull Bayou, Louisiana.....	20 acres	Shackelford County.....	40 acres
Desdemonia.....	10 acres	Nolan County.....	120 acres
Kemp-Munger-Allen.....	5 acres	Comanche County.....	10 acres
Jones County.....	200 acres	Erath County.....	30 acres
Taylor county.....	160 acres	Mills County.....	30 acres
New Mexico.....	40 acres	Cherokee County.....	9000 acres
Fisher County.....	120 acres		

It owns one drilling rig complete. It is now negotiating for three more drilling rigs

# WRIGLEY'S



For rosy cheeks, happy smiles, white teeth, good appetites and digestions.

Its benefits are as GREAT as its cost is SMALL!

It satisfies the desire for sweets, and is beneficial, too.

Sealed Tight Kept Right



"After Every Meal"



The Flavor Lasts A12

## THE MAN HATER

By ELIZABETH I. SAUNDERS.

(© 1919, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

"What has come over me? What ails me lately? I don't feel a bit like myself," thought Gwendolyn Ritchie, as she sat pondering on the edge of the bed, staring absently into the mirror before her. "It can't be jealousy. I was never jealous of Fran in my life, and yet, why am I so opposed to Hal, all of a sudden—and just since he put that ring on her finger? Goodness knows, I want to see my little sister happy and I know she loves him—so what is it? Jealousy? That awful word—could it be that—but how could it, for I never loved Hal—in fact my affections have never been inclined to any mere man, and never will be. They are a bother and quite troublesome. I know what it is," she finally added to the perplexed reflection in the mirror. "Hal is taking Fran away from me. I will be all alone."

The thought of being all alone, separated from Fran, who had been her only pal and confidant since their great loss had come upon them, leaving them two orphans to face the ups and downs of life alone. They had been inseparable and in fact only one subject had ever come between them to cause dispute, and that was Fran's everlasting persistency that men were quite essential, and she liked them. "I just know, Gwen Ritchie, that the morning will come when you will wake up and find yourself head over heels in love with the only man in the world of men," Fran had said time and time again to Gwen. Gwen had argued with Fran to the contrary, but without results, for Fran was firmly in favor of the male sex.

It was in this mood that Fran, with flushed cheeks, sparkling eyes and all excitement burst into the room, with "Oh, Gwen, isn't it wonderful; Hal just got the marriage license. I am so happy."

"Yes, dear, I'm glad for you," choked Gwen.

"But, Gwen, you are crying. What is it, dear?"

"Nothing much, only I dread the thought of giving you up to a man. Marriage may be all right, but I don't believe it. I hate men and will have nothing to do with them."

"I'm not silly, Fran; it's just my nature. Perhaps you're right. We can't get along with them, but I guess I am not like other girls, for they mean nothing to me but hard feelings and hatred."

"Gwen, I will give you just one month to meet and fall in love with the one and only. Remember, just one month."

"But, Fran—"

"No 'buts' about it, and what's more, you are going to that dance tonight with Hal and me. His chum has just returned from a hospital where he has been recovering from injuries in the service. Although he can't dance, he will be there. His leg was injured and he hasn't the use of it to the extent of dancing—but anyway, I promised Hal you would be there to entertain him, so that's final."

"So I should play nurse to Hal's pals? Oh, well, if you insist. Perhaps I could do you one more favor, and fall in love with him."

"All right, we will make it a bet," dared Fran.

For hours after the dance was over and the two sisters were snuggled under the covers, Gwen tossed and sighed.

"Gwen, for goodness sake, what is the matter with you? What's on your mind?"

"Nothing much—only a man—I mean I was wondering if Ray had ever been in love; I mean isn't it too bad Ray was injured, for he is such a fine fellow? So different from the rest—the most individual male I ever met."

"Oh, well, let's go to sleep and forget it—but remember, it is not love, but only sympathy for his poor leg."

"Sympathy and understanding spell true friendship, and that is the seed of love."

"You are certainly a sentimental little mite, but don't you be so sure that I am falling in love—I'm not."

The next three weeks were busy ones for Fran, preparing for the all-eventful day that spelled happiness to her. True, she had noticed flowers and letters coming to Gwen, but in her excitement had not given her prediction a thought.

The night before Fran's wedding had arrived Gwen showed much interest in the final touches of her sister's trousseau. "I'm so glad, Fran, I only wish tomorrow were my passport and date for happiness."

"You mean you'd like to marry Hal, yourself?" questioned Fran.

"Hal, nothing—his pal—Ray. Love is wonderful, after all," she pondered.

"Oh, Gwen, I'm so glad."

"Glad? What for—what have I been saying?" stormed Gwen. "Don't mind me, Fran, I was just talking silly."

"Please, Gwen, you know you were the first to know of my engagement," coaxed Fran, and then sternly. "Remember, Gwen, you have just four days more to get engaged. How about it?"

"Oh, Fran, I believe it's all your fault, but I've truly gone and done it."

"That's funny; it took Hal seven months to ask me to marry him, and only 26 days for Ray to ask my little 'man-hating' sister. Guess you win, Gwen; men are different, after all."

## BETWEEN LINES

By ELIZABETH A. DE BAER.

(© 1919, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Olga was a senior in boarding school and George was a junior in college. They met at a college house party and, well—!

Olga was short with very large eyes and a very small mouth. She wore her hair, black and shining, parted in the middle, pulled quaintly down over her forehead, puffed over the ears and high in back. When George came to call, she wore her grandmother's comb, which was very lovely—then hurried it back among tissue paper when he left. Olga's dresses were ruffy—most impractical, but she was practical because she made them herself. She could play a guitar softly and roll her eyes at the proper moment, and, best of all, she was a good listener. But when it came to talking—Olga was a failure. She couldn't say anything funny and her words seemed to jump out in a short, snappy way. Olga couldn't talk well and, fortunately, she knew it—so she didn't talk much.

As for George—he was big and awkward, but loads of fun. He could make his thumbs go out of joint and Olga would cover her big eyes with her little hands and beg him not to be "so naughty," and said she wouldn't look, but he knew she was peeking through her fingers. He liked to have her sit curled up beside him, and play soft, slow music on her guitar while they both looked into space. Yes, they were deeply in love!

Then the house party ended and Olga came back to school, fell into the arms of her waiting roommate, was dragged upstairs and, lights turned low, confessed the whole story to wide-eyed Jane.

"And just think, dear," she ended with a resigned sigh. "It'll be two months before I'll see him."

"Poor little thing," Jane eyed with envy the diamond set fraternity pin that clung desperately to Olga's waist. "It must be wonderful to be in love!"

The next day a special came for Olga—it was a letter from George and such a letter! Olga showed it to Jane and cried and laughed alternately as she read it for the fifth time. It was indeed a masterpiece, a clever, well-written letter, and Olga was wise—she knew her answer was expected to be equally as clever—it just had to be! Moreover, she knew she couldn't write a good letter any more than she could tell a good story—and she knew Jane could. And Jane did. True love should not deceive, but Olga, in her desire to keep George's affection while away from him, was desperate. She realized her shortcomings and she did her best to outwit them. So Jane, under Olga's careful censorship, carried on the latter's correspondence with her fiancé.

All went well and everyone was apparently happy until one day Jane, re-eyed, told Olga she wanted to talk with her. She flopped down on the cot among the pillows and looked up into Olga's questioning eyes.

"I can't go on with it, Roomy," she said in a hollow voice. "I can't go on deceiving him, and myself."

"Yes, I've tried to make myself believe I don't love him, but I do—his letters are so wonderful. I—"

"Stop," Olga cried; "do you mean you have fallen in love with my George?"

Jane nodded miserably and the tears bounced off her cheek.

"Yes," she answered simply.

Then desperately she went on:

"And I've read between the lines, it's me he loves, it's my letters, it's the girl I've put into my letters—me!"

"Oh, Jane, how can you!" and Olga sank down. She wanted to cry but she didn't, so she whistled bravely.

That night the maid came pattering up the stairs with two cards for Olga. One was "George Potter," the other, "Stanley Mills." She couldn't think; she went mechanically down the stairs and into the reception room. George caught her hands awkwardly and, utterly ignoring the tall, dark man beside him, said:

"Olga, tell me the truth—do you love me?"

"Oh, George, what's the use if—"

"I won't believe it, Olga—I know you love me and I've come to explain everything. I was so crazy about you that when I went away I was afraid my letters wouldn't hold your interest, so I got Stan to write 'em for me. And now, Olga, he's fallen in love with you, and he says he's read between the lines and knows you're his by rights. He told me so this morning."

But Olga shot out of the room, flinging a "be right back" to the surprised man who stared after her. In a moment she returned dragging a bewildered Jane across the room.

"George, dear," she explained, "it was Jane who wrote these letters—I was trying to deceive you and—" but George had taken her in his arms. He had kissed her twice when she suddenly remembered, and whispered:

"Introduce them, dear."

George laughed.

"They don't need an introduction, honey."

And they didn't.

### A Sex Difference.

The difference between a man and a woman is that when you see a man wearing evening clothes you usually see somebody who'd much rather be wearing something else.—Detroit Free Press.



## New Printed Voiles, Crepes and Silks

There are so many points of attraction in our new display it would be difficult for us to say which is the most charming.

Printed voils in a big pattern range	45c to \$1.75
Printed plain organdies	60c to 1.50
Full line of colors in crepe de chine, priced at	2.95
Plain and fancy taffetas priced special at	2.45

Several short lengths left in silk skirtings at Half Price

Extra Specials in Millinery Friday and Saturday

## Woodroof - Bragg Dry Goods Company

The Place Most People Trade

### LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. M. V. Mitchell of Cisco, came up this afternoon for a visit to her daughter Mrs. W. A. McSpadden.

Your Prescriptions will be filled accurately and by registered Druggists at the Merkel Drug Company.

Mrs. W. J. Sheppard and children left this week for Duncan, Oklahoma, where they will visit her sister, Mrs. Ed. J. Leeman, wife of the editor of the Duncan Banner.

When you want to buy a Monument for that grave, See A. L. Jobe who represents one of the best Marble Companies in the United States. 27tf

W. P. Duckett Jr. and wife of Cooper, Texas, came in yesterday for a visit to the homes of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Duckett and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harris.

### INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

## NOW

It matters not how careful you may be, the fire bug will creep upon you unawares. We have an example in our school building. No one knows how it caught. It started in a part of the building least expected. Your property may suffer the same fate.

We handle reputable lines and can give you the best of service.

### Merkel Realty Co.

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

### OPEN PLANING MILL HERE

Messrs. H. Greer and E. B. Rodden of Abilene, moved to Merkel, and have secured a building and expect to open in this city within a short time a first class Planing Mill. They state that the machinery which is all new, has been ordered, and will be installed upon receipt.

This is a needed enterprise and we welcome them and their planing mill to our city.

### NOTICE

The family shoe shop can save you money on your shoe repairing. On Front street, one door east of Merkel Garage in Rear of the Daniel's Confectionary. Leroy Ware, Prop. tf

I have quite a lot of Mebane seed yet unsold. According to books at Brown's gin this is the best cotton of any kind handled by this gin last season. Price \$2.50 per bushel. C. L. Tucker.tf

Comb Honey at G. M. Sharp's.

# Kodak Finishing!

QUALITY CLASS

Let us do Your Kodak Work. We give good service, reasonable prices. QUALITY CLASS

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Afternoons

After 5 p.m. pictures delivered that are left with us before 8:30 a.m. the day previous

### PRICES

DEVELOPIND—6 ex. or 8 ex. films, 10c 10 ex. or 12 ex. films, 15c Film packs, 25c

PRINTING—Sizes up to and including 2 1/4 x 3 1/4, 4c each Sizes up to and including 3 1/4 x 5 1/2, 5c each

ENLARGEMENTS—Have your choice films enlarged. Enlargements put in suitable mountings at following prices: 5x7 \$1.00 each 7x11 \$1.50 each 11x14 \$2.50 each. Special rates on orders of 4 or more of a kind. Postage paid on all orders amounting to more than \$1.00

KODAK FINISHERS TO ALL WEST TEXAS. Give us a trial and be convinced that we can give you pictures of better Quality Class, and remember we make

"Photographs of the Better Kind"

## THE COZY STUDIO

JNO. C. REINHARD, Manager

Phone 314